

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-40 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 3-40 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuller et al. ("Fuller") (US 5,752,191) in view of Zahavi et al. ("Zahavi") (US 5,309,512).

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under § 103, all claim limitations of a claimed invention must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See MPEP, Section 2143.03 and In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). In view of the foregoing authority, the Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot support the asserted rejection.

Independent claims 1, 12, 18, 25 and 32 each recites, among other features, a PAAM database (or PAAM information) comprising a plurality of PAAM message strings for each of the calling party and the called party, the plurality of PAAM message strings being customizable to define personal messages for exchange between the calling party and the called party during a call connection, and to define a preference for a message of the calling party over a message of the called party and vice versa, or in the absence of a defined personal message, one or more of the PAAM message strings presenting a generic message.

The combination of Fuller and Zahavi cannot yield the claimed structure. The Examiner equates the "internal database" of Fuller mentioned at col. 9, line 27 with the claimed PAAM database, but there is no disclosure in Fuller concerning the internal database along the lines claimed. Instead, the internal database of Fuller is only described as being referred to "to determine how to handle [a] call" (col. 9, line 27). Moreover, Zahavi clearly does not cure the deficiencies in Fuller.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 12, 18, 25 and 32 are allowable over Fuller and Zahavi. Since the dependent claims incorporate the feature of the independent claims, the dependent claims are likewise allowable for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims.

In light of the above discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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